(c) whether Government propose to discontinue the system of refreshments in the Navyug Schools; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) NDMC has intimated that they have not increased the tuition fees in the Navyug schools. However, the refreshment charges have been increased as below:—

Navyug School, Sarojini Nagar

Pre-revised	Revised
Category A free	Category A Rs. 35/-
Category B Rs. 38/-	Category B Rs. 75/-
Category C Rs. 76/-	

Navyug Schools, other than Sarojini Nagar

Pre-revised	Revised
Rs. 31/-per month from	Rs. 35/- from catogory
Category B. & C, Category A free	A and Rs. 75/- from category B.

Categorisation is done as per the annual income of parents. In the revised scheme, there will be only two categories, viz., category 'A' and category 'B'.

These charges have been increased for the first time keeping in view the general increase in the prices of various commodities being served as refreshment.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) It is in the interests of the students.

Appoints on preferential grounds in Indira Gandhi National Open University

3392. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a legal defect in the allotment of land to the "Indira Gandhi National Open University" and the same is liable to be quashed on the suit of the villagers;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the University have done ignored the other deserving cases on extraneous grounds thereby generating a strong reaction; and

(c) if so, whether Government is willing to make provision for giving preferential treatment to the residents of village Maidan Garhi is appointments in the University?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA): (a) According to the information furnished by IGNOU, land measuring 150 acres was purchased from Gaon Sabha, Maidan Garhi at a cost of Rs. 22.25 lakhs after entering into

an agreement with the Gaon Sabha which was duly vetted by the Delhi Administration. As such the possibility of any legal defect or suit of the villages with regard to this land should not arise.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Providing Minimum Level of Education

3393. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Government have taken so far to provide primary school education for all children within one Kilometre of walking distance and (ii) to reduce the dropout rate between Class—I and V from the existing 46 percent to 20 percent;

(b) what provision has been made under the Eighth Plan outlay for centrally sponsored schemes under "elementary education" and as well as under outlay for Annual Plan 1992-93; and

(c) whether Government hope to provide minimum level of education to all children in the country at the primary level by the end of 1997, if so, the steps taken (State-wise) so far and the central assistance likely to be provided to Rajasthan and Orissa in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA): (a) The responsibility to provide universal access to primary education lies with State Governments and they work out annual requirement of opening of primary schools or non-formal education centres wherever needed and make provision in their State plan. As per the Xth All India Education Survey (1986), 94.5 percent of the rural population is served by the primary school within a walking distance of 1 Kilometre. As regards reduction of dropouts, the causes leading to dropout being many, there is no single programme which if implemented would lead to a specified reduction in the dropout rates. The State Governments and Union Territories Administrations have taken following steps in this regard:

(i) Provision of incentives such as free text books, free uniforms, scholarships and mid-day meals etc.;

(ii) Community mobilitisation to the need for literacy;

(iii) Appointment of female teachers;

(iv) Provision of day care centre either near or attached to schools to take care of younger siblings.

In addition, Central assistance has been provided and will continue during VIII Plan for expansion of facilities in primary schools under the scheme of Operation Blackboard, for diversification and improvement of non-formal education, and for programmes relating to teacher training, etc.

(b) The details are given in the Statement. (*See* below).

(c) In the revised policy of education, it is envisaged that all children upto the age of 14 will be provided elementary education before we enter the twenty first century. As programme of action is being drawn up to achieve this goal. No state-wise allocations are made in the 8th Plan under the central sector.